

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An in-vehicle information printing system for an occupant in a vehicle
5 comprising:
a printer operably received within the vehicle; and,
a telematics system providing information to the occupant, said telematics system
serving as a host device for commanding the printer;
such that said information from the telematics system may be printed on a print
10 medium operably connected to the printer to thereby allow the vehicle occupant to
display said information in printed format.
2. The in-vehicle information printing system for an occupant in a vehicle of
claim 1, wherein said information is wirelessly provided to the vehicle from a remote
15 location.
3. The in-vehicle information printing system for an occupant in a vehicle of
claim 1, wherein said printer is operably secured within a passenger compartment of the
vehicle.
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4. The in-vehicle information printing system for an occupant in a vehicle of
claim 3, wherein said printer is secured within a passenger seat of the vehicle, said
passenger seat has a seating area, and said printer does not occupy any portion of said
seating area.
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5. The in-vehicle information printing system for an occupant in a vehicle of
claim 4, wherein said passenger seat has a seat back and a back side, wherein said printer
is operably received within a chamber in said seat back and is accessible through said
back side of said seat back.

6. The in-vehicle information printing system for an occupant in a vehicle of claim 1, wherein said printer includes a port for operably connecting a personal computer, and said personal computer serves as a second host device for commanding the printer.

5 7. The in-vehicle information printing system for an occupant in a vehicle of claim 6, wherein said port for operably connecting the personal computer is wireless.

8. A method for displaying information from a telematics system, the telematics system able to wirelessly transmit information from a remote location to the vehicle, the vehicle having a passenger compartment with a plurality of passenger seats therein, each said passenger seat having a seating area, said method for displaying information comprising the steps of:

10 securing a printer within the passenger compartment such that the seating area of each passenger seat within the vehicle is not blocked by any portion of the printer;
15 operably connecting the telematics system to the printer;
receiving information through the telematics system;
printing the information on a print medium operably secured to the in-vehicle printer.

20 9. The method for displaying information in a vehicle of claim 8, further including the step of operably connecting an auxiliary host device to the printer.

10. An in-vehicle printer comprising:
25 a printer operably connected to a host device, said host device commanding the printer; and,
a vehicle having a chamber for receiving said printer and a passenger seat therein, said passenger seat having a passenger seating area;
wherein said printer is operably secured within said chamber such that said printer
30 does not occupying any portion of said seating area.

11. The in-vehicle printer of claim 10, wherein said host device is a vehicle telematics system.

12. The in-vehicle printer of claim 10, wherein said host device is a portable computer.

13. The in-vehicle printer of claim 10, wherein said chamber is received within said passenger seat.

14. The in-vehicle printer of claim 13, wherein said passenger seat has a seat back, and said chamber is received within said seat back.

15. The in-vehicle printer of claim 14, wherein said seatback includes an inlet slot and an exit slot and a print medium may be inserted through said inlet slot such that said print medium travels through said inlet slot to said printer, and from said printer through said exit slot.

16. The in-vehicle printer of claim 14, wherein said passenger seat has a back side and said chamber is accessible through an access door on said back side, said access door is pivotally secured to said seat back to define a closed position and an open position.

17. The in-vehicle printer of claim 16, further including a feed tray extending between said access door and said printer when said access door is in said closed position.

18. The in-vehicle printer of claim 17, wherein said feed tray includes a forward panel and a rearward panel spaced apart from each other by a defined distance to define an area for receiving a stack of print medium when said access door is in said closed position.

19. The in-vehicle printer of claim 18, wherein said rearward panel is pivotally secured to said printer and biased to a position away from said access door such that said area for receiving a stack of print medium is accessible when said access door is in said open position.

20. The in-vehicle printer of claim 14, further including an output tray pivotally secured to said seat back.

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